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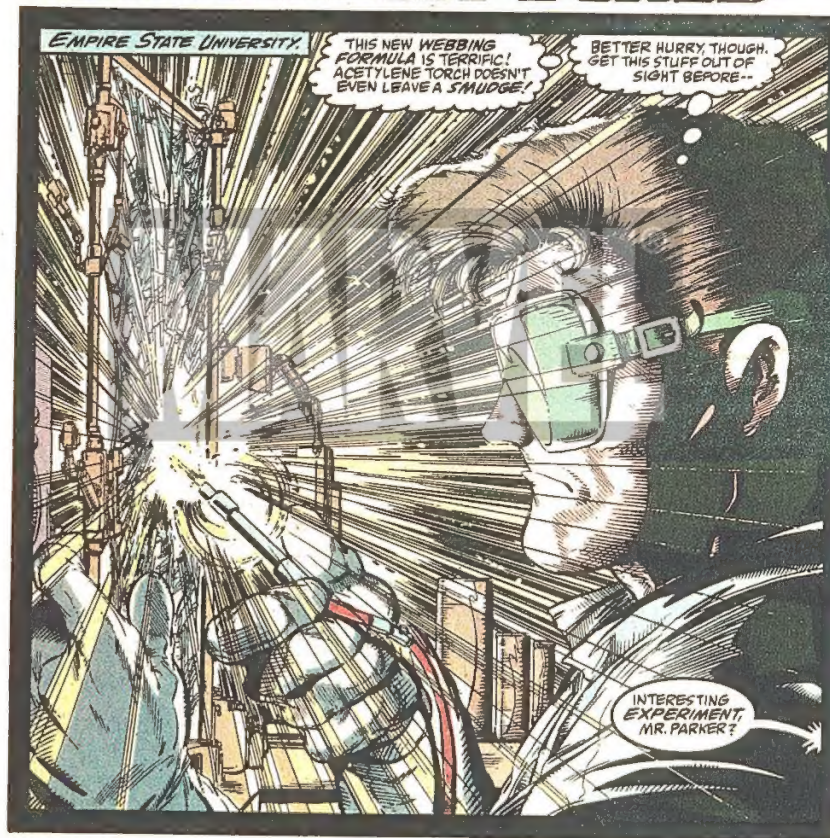
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**

DAVID MICHELINE TODD MCFARLANE RICK PARKER BOB SHAREN/GREGORY WRIGHT JIM SALICRUP TOM DEFALCO
WRITER ARTIST LETTERER COLORISTS EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE ASSASSIN NATION PLOT PART ONE LICENSE IMMOBILED



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 320, Late September, 1989. (ISSN 0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Gallion, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President. Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly except for July, June, July and August. Copyright © 1989 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate \$12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and foreign, \$14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue, and the other two characters thereof), 3RD FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

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D-DOCTOR SWANN!
= UUPS

THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE NEUTRON OBSERVATION PROCEDURE YOU WERE SCHEDULED TO CONDUCT, PETER.

ER, N-NO, SIR. ACTUALLY, I WAS TESTING THE TENSILE STRENGTH OF A NEW, UHM SYNTHETIC FIBER!
I READ ABOUT IT IN SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN!

HI!



INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IS THE BACKBONE OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS, SON. BUT AS LONG AS THE UNIVERSITY PAYS YOU TO BE MY PART-TIME ASSISTANT--

--I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME ON YOUR ASSIGNED WORK.

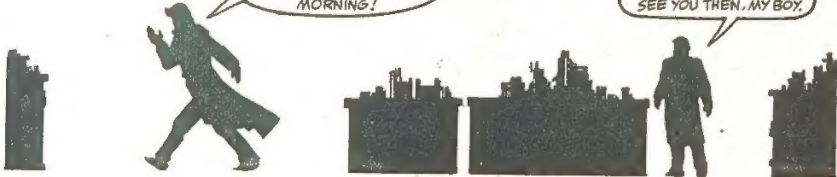
MY SHIFT'S OVER, ANYWAY, BUT I PROMISE I'LL GET ON THAT NEUTRON PROJECT FIRST THING THURSDAY MORNING!



BELIEVE ME, SIR, IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

FINE.

SEE YOU THEN, MY BOY.



SOON, IN A BASEMENT STORAGE AREA...

FAT LOT OF GOOD MY SPIDER-SENSE DOES WHEN THERE'S NOWHERE I CAN HIDE FROM DOC SWAN!

BUT AT LEAST MY NEW WEBBING'S READY NOW TO TEST IT IN THE REAL WORLD--

--AS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

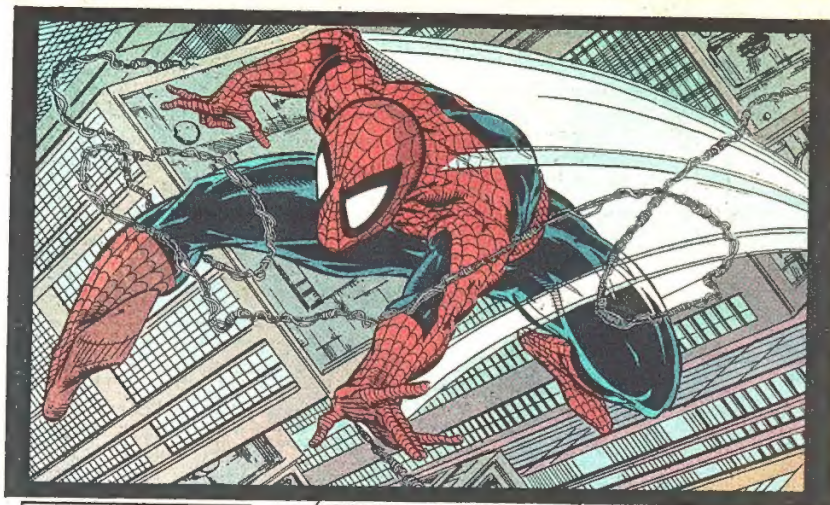
MAYBE I CAN GET SOME PHOTOS TO SELL TO THE DAILY BUGLE WHILE I'M AT IT.

--AND WAIT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE IF IT DOES WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO.

I'LL JUST SNAP THE PLASTIC CARTRIDGE WITH MY NEW WEBBING FORMULA NEXT IN LINE ON MY WRISTBAND--

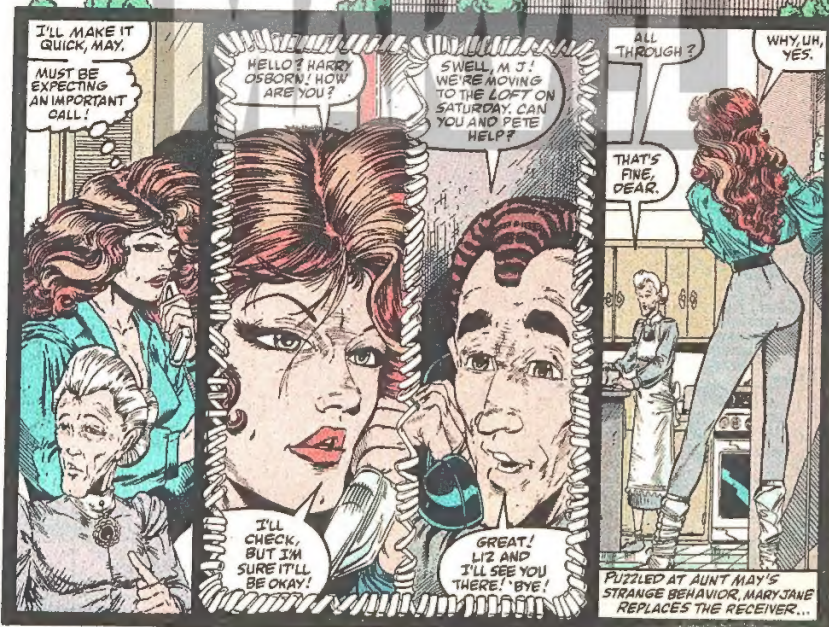
WITH A WIFE OUT OF WORK, AND A GROWING NEED TO FIND A NEW APARTMENT, I COULD SURE USE THE MONEY.

KEEP ME ALIVE!



WHILE AT MAY PARKER'S BOARDING HOUSE IN FOREST HILLS...

IT'S FOR YOU, MARY JANE. YOU WON'T BE LONG, WILL YOU? I'D LIKE TO KEEP THE LINE OPEN.



I'LL MAKE IT QUICK, MAY.

MUST BE EXPECTING AN IMPORTANT CALL!

HELLO? HARRY OSBORN! HOW ARE YOU?

SWELL, M.J.: WE'RE MOVING TO THE LOFT ON SATURDAY. CAN YOU AND PETE HELP?

ALL THROUGH?

WHY, UH, YES.

THAT'S FINE, DEAR.

I'LL CHECK, BUT I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY!

GREAT! LIZ AND I'LL SEE YOU THERE! 'BYE!

PUZZLED AT AUNT MAY'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR, MARY JANE REPLACES THE RECEIVER...

4

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BUBBLE BOBBLE IS DINO-MIGHT!

(FOR YOUR NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.)



THESE ARE TWO HUNGRY DINO-MIGHTS AND THEY'VE GOT BUBBLE FIGHT'N FUN DOWN TIGHT. You and your two brontosaurus buddies, Bub and Bob, are up to your brows in bubble troubles. You've got to battle battalions of bullies by blowing and bursting billions of bubbles. It's a fast-paced bubble banquet through 100 screens of slap happy suds. Got an appetite for fun...then get blowing.

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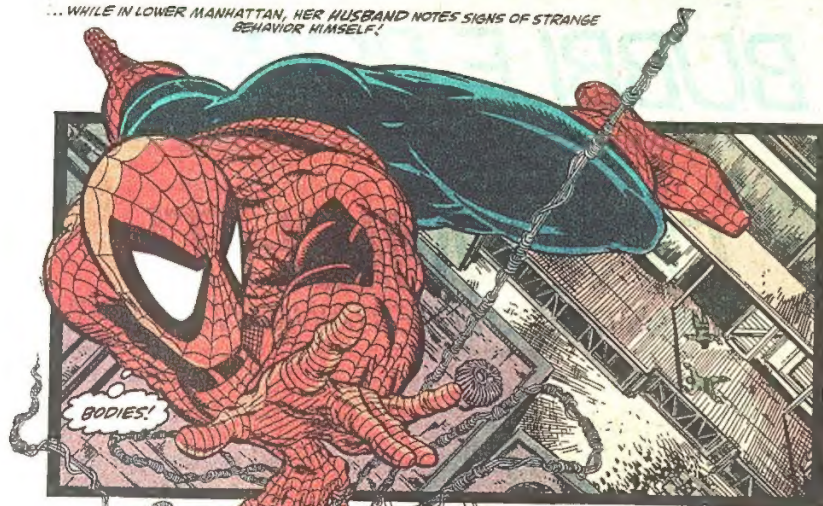
REAR

Nintendo ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

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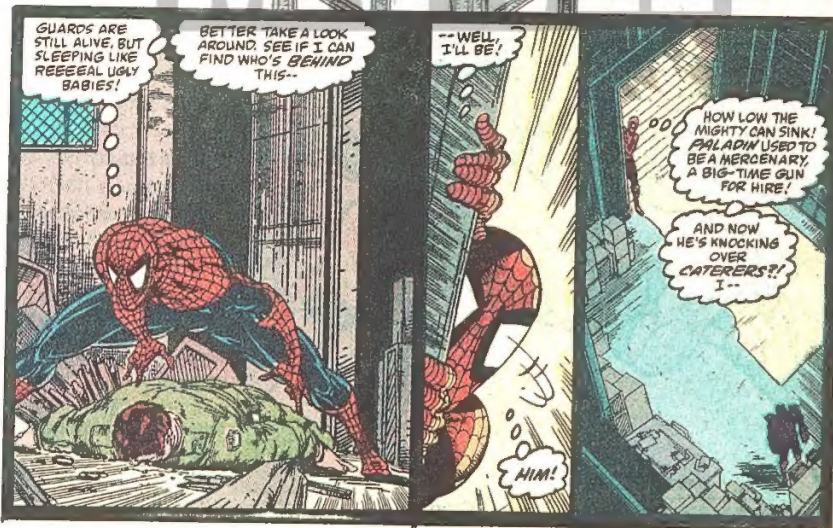
...WHILE IN LOWER MANHATTAN, HER HUSBAND NOTES SIGNS OF STRANGE BEHAVIOR HIMSELF!



BODIES!



AND WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE COULD BE ARSON!



GUARDS ARE STILL ALIVE, BUT SLEEPING LIKE REBEAL UGLY BABIES!

BETTER TAKE A LOOK AROUND. SEE IF I CAN FIND WHO'S BEHIND THIS--

--WELL, I'LL BE!

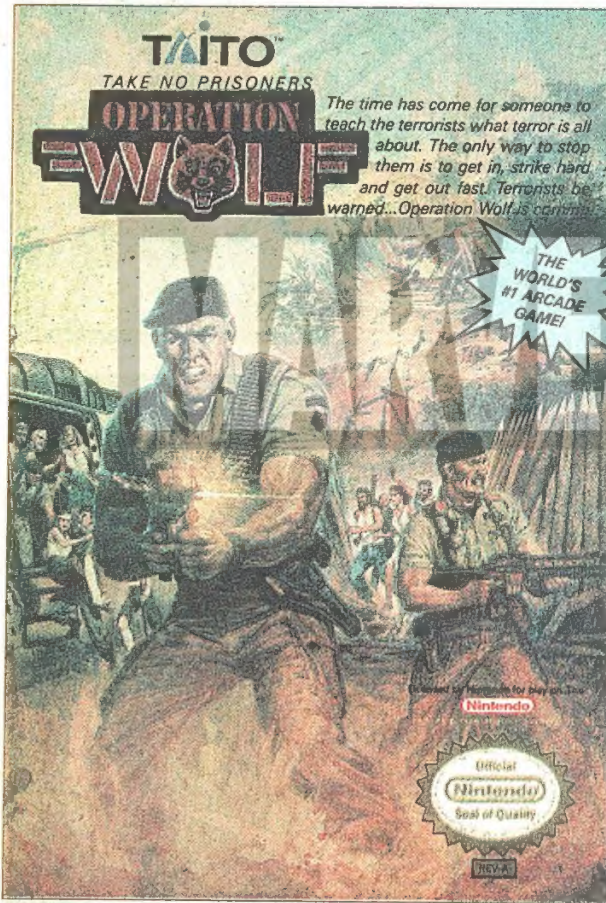
HIM!

HOW LOW THE MIGHTY CAN SINK! PALADIN USED TO BE A MERCENARY, A BIG-TIME GUN FOR HIRE!

AND NOW HE'S KNOCKING OVER CATERERS?! I--

TAKE NO PRISONERS.

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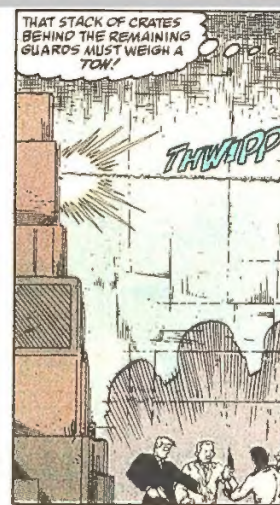
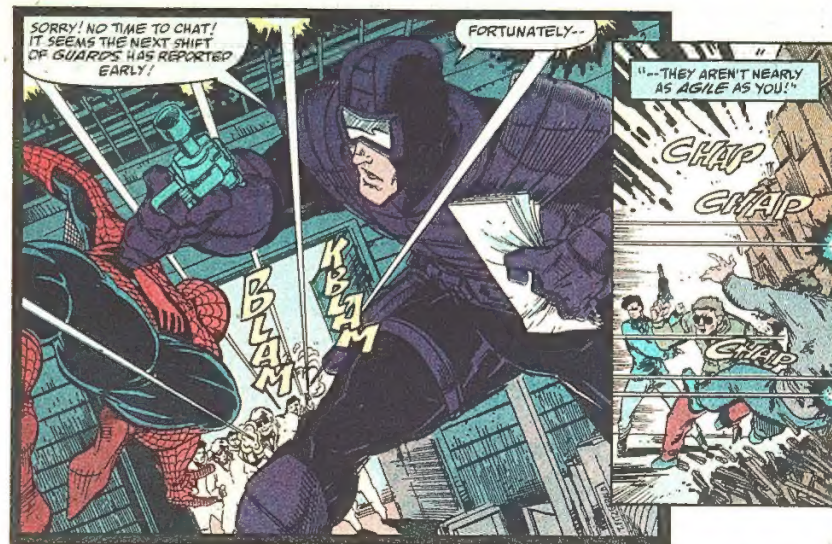
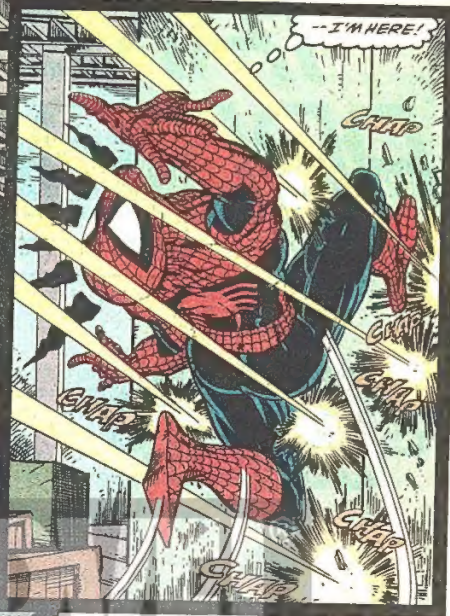
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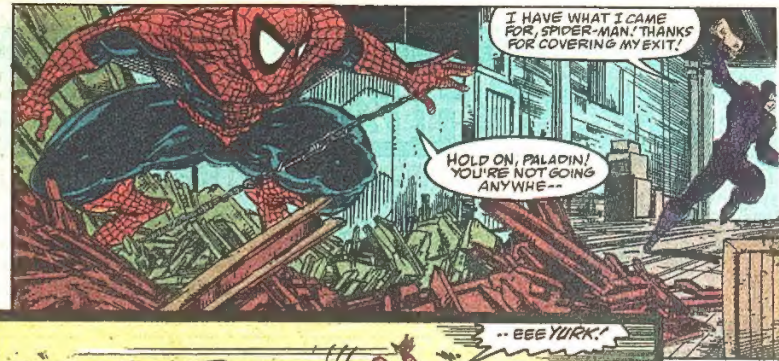
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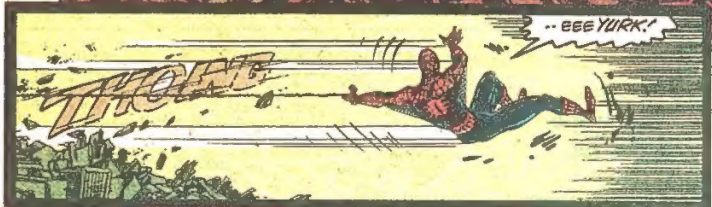


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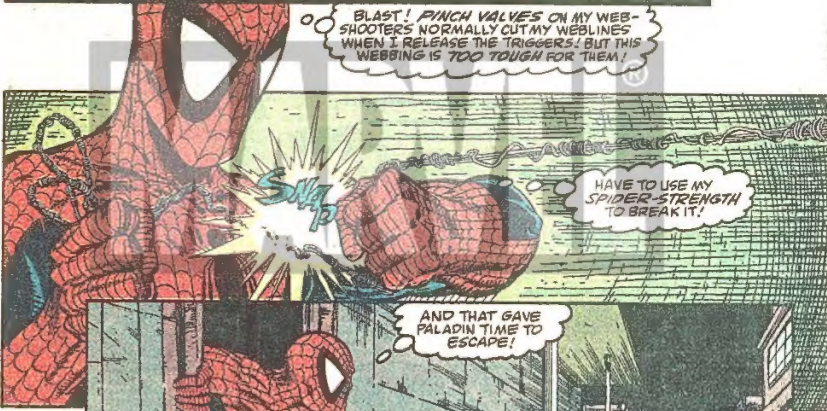


I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR, SPIDER-MAN! THANKS FOR COVERING MY EXIT!

HOLD ON, PALADIN! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE--

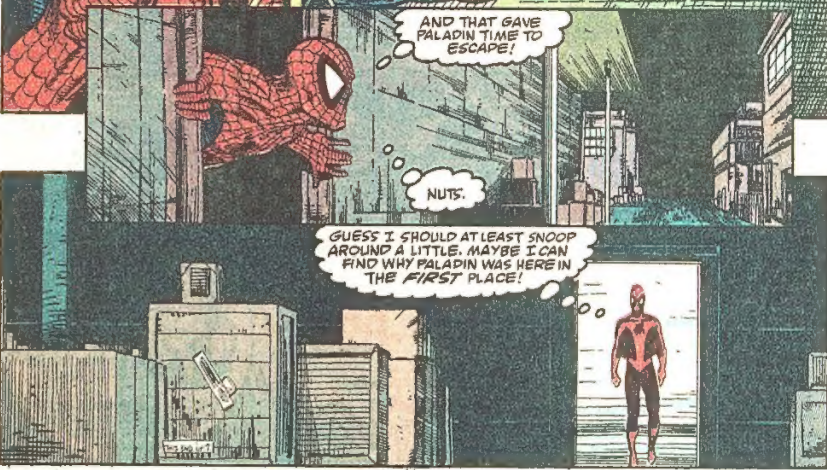


-- BEE YURK!



BLAST! PINCH VALVES ON MY WEB-SHOOTERS NORMALLY CUT MY WEBLINES WHEN I RELEASE THE TRIGGERS, BUT THIS WEBBING IS TOO TOUGH FOR THEM!

HAVE TO USE MY SPIDER-STRENGTH TO BREAK IT!



AND THAT GAVE PALADIN TIME TO ESCAPE!

NUTS!

GUESS I SHOULD AT LEAST SNOOP AROUND A LITTLE. MAYBE I CAN FIND WHY PALADIN WAS HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

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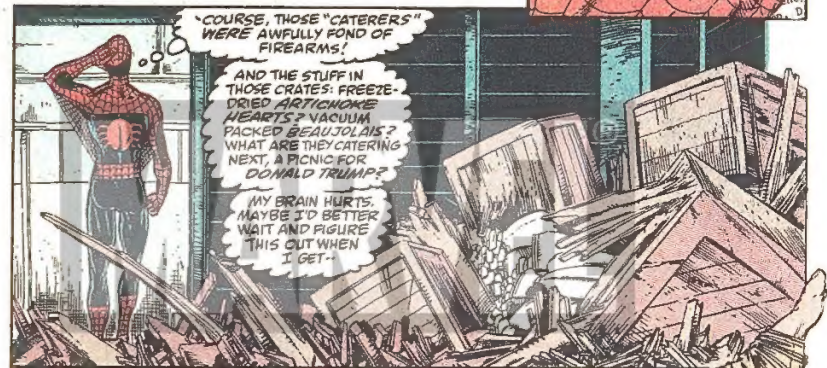
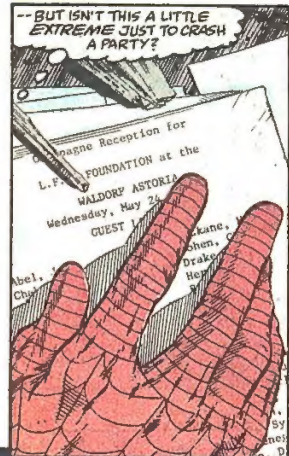
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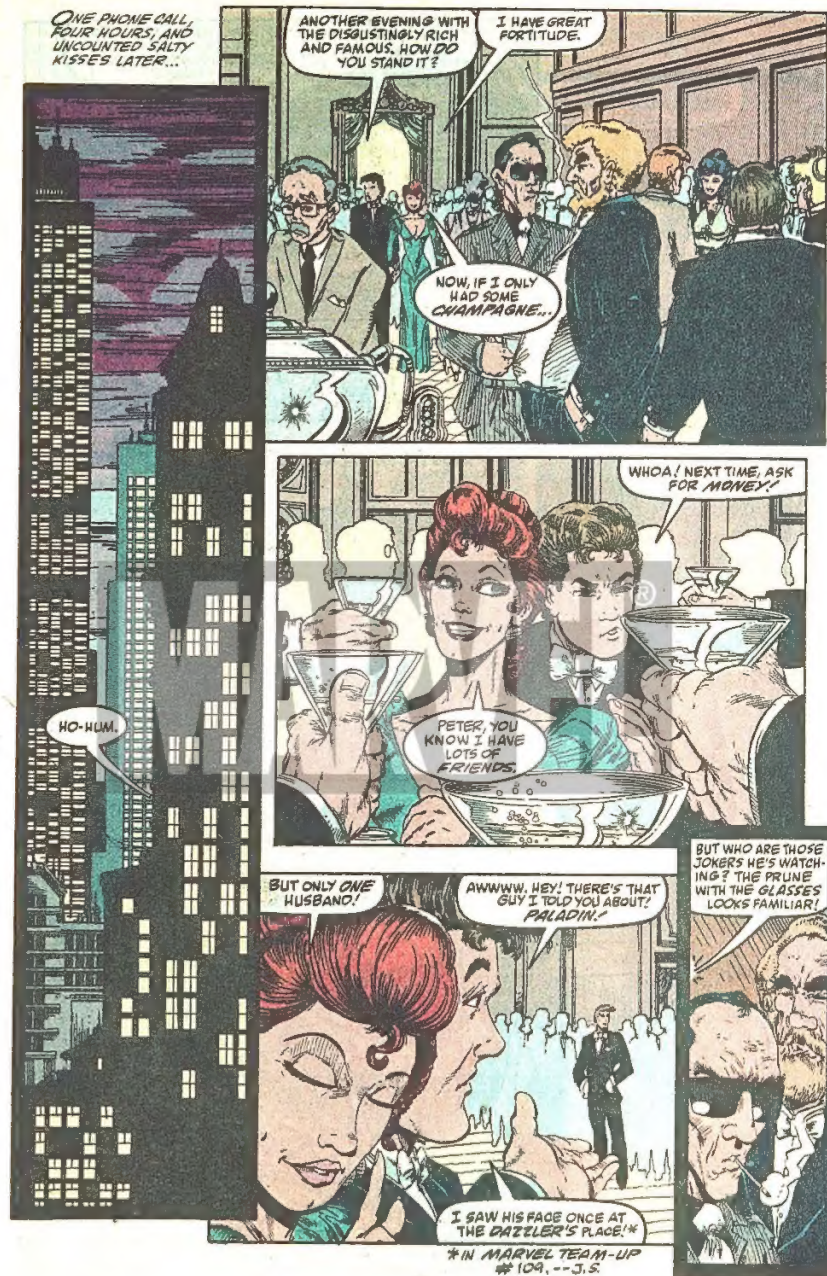
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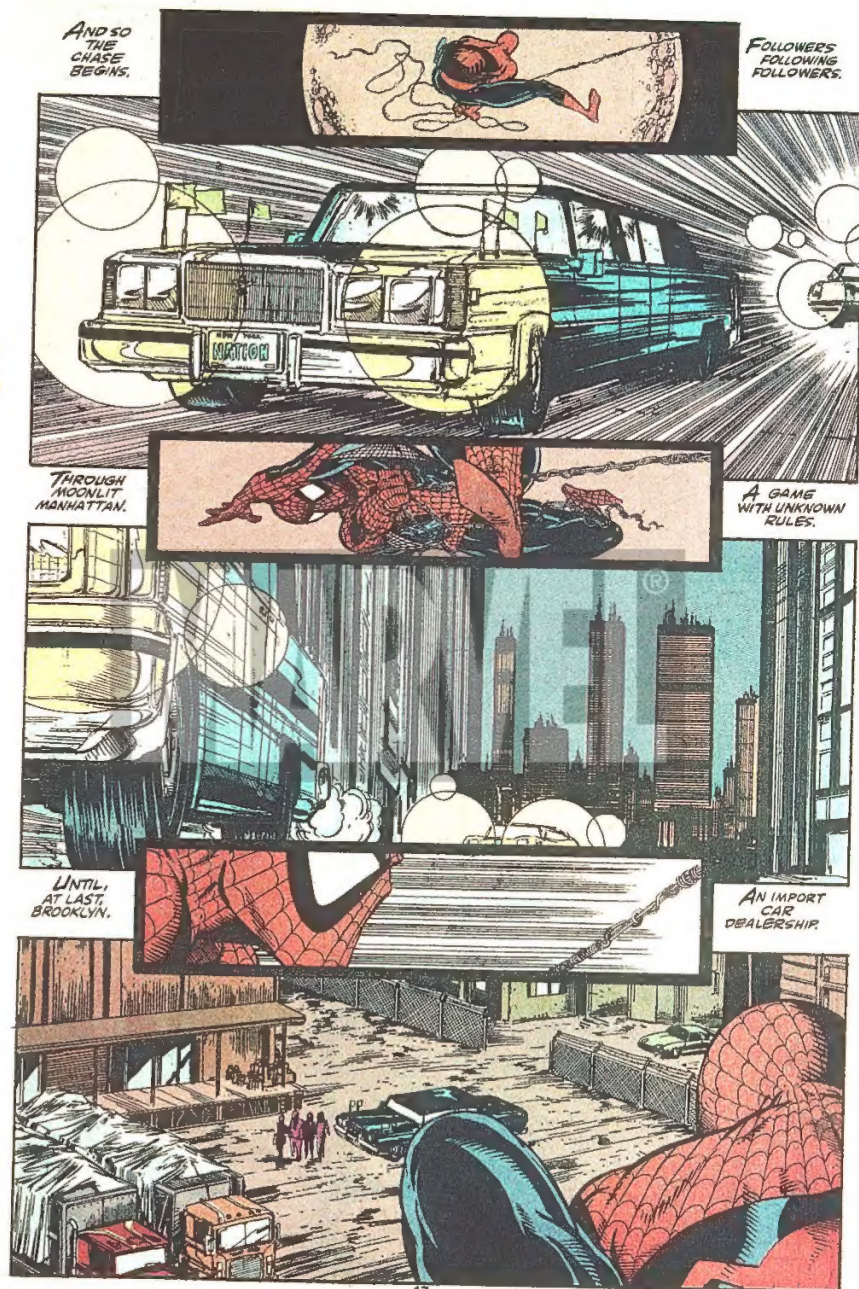
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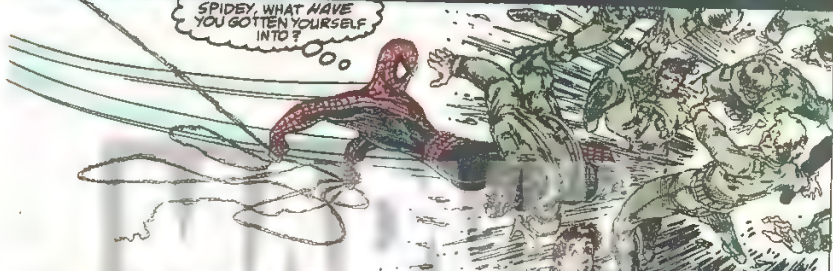
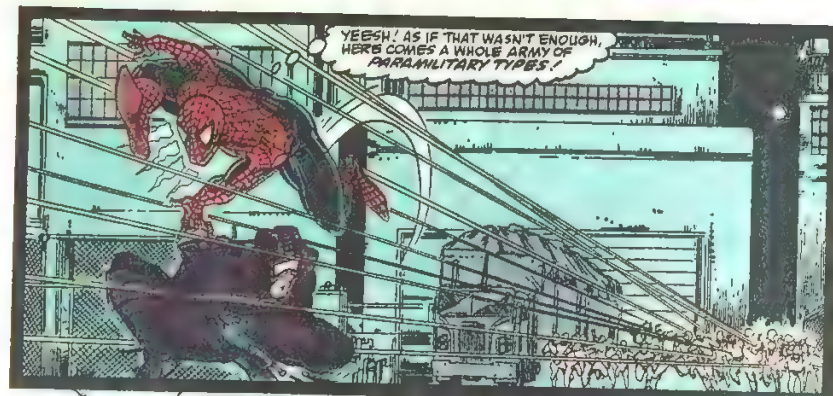
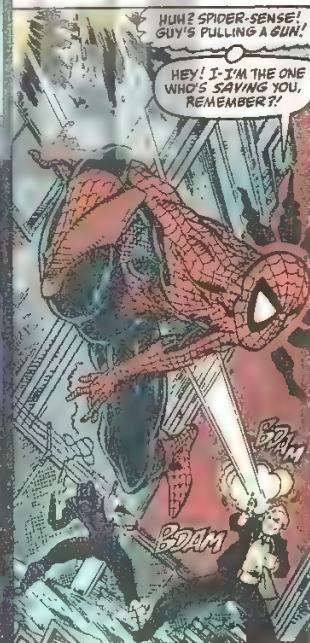
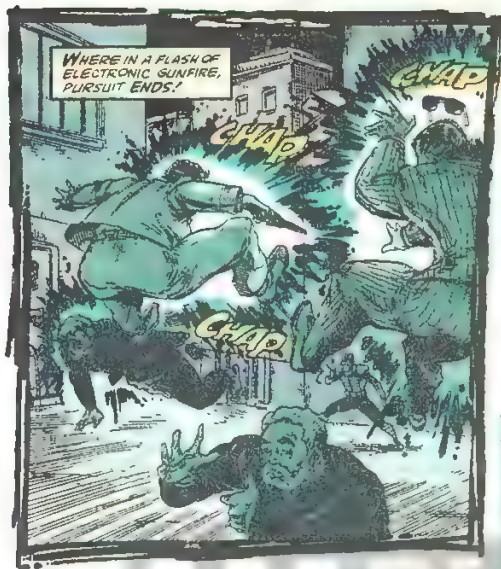
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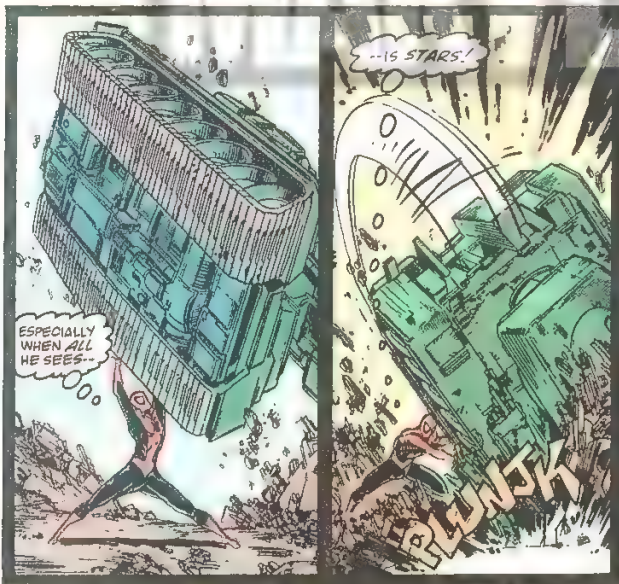
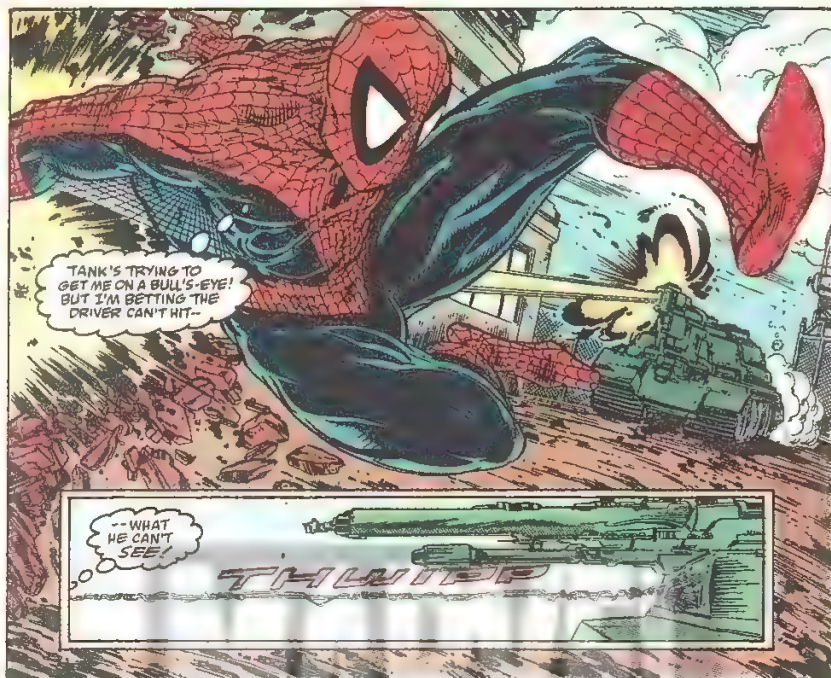


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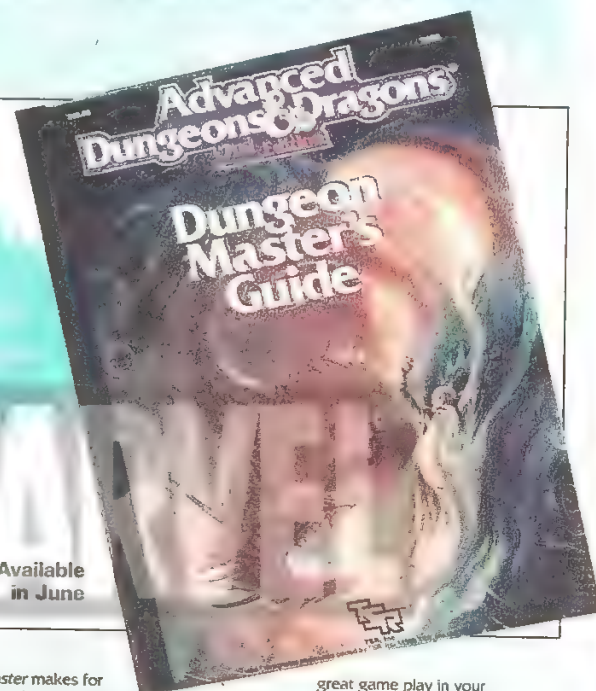


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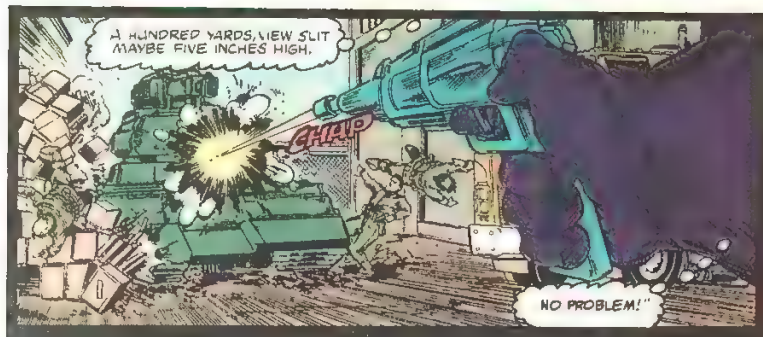
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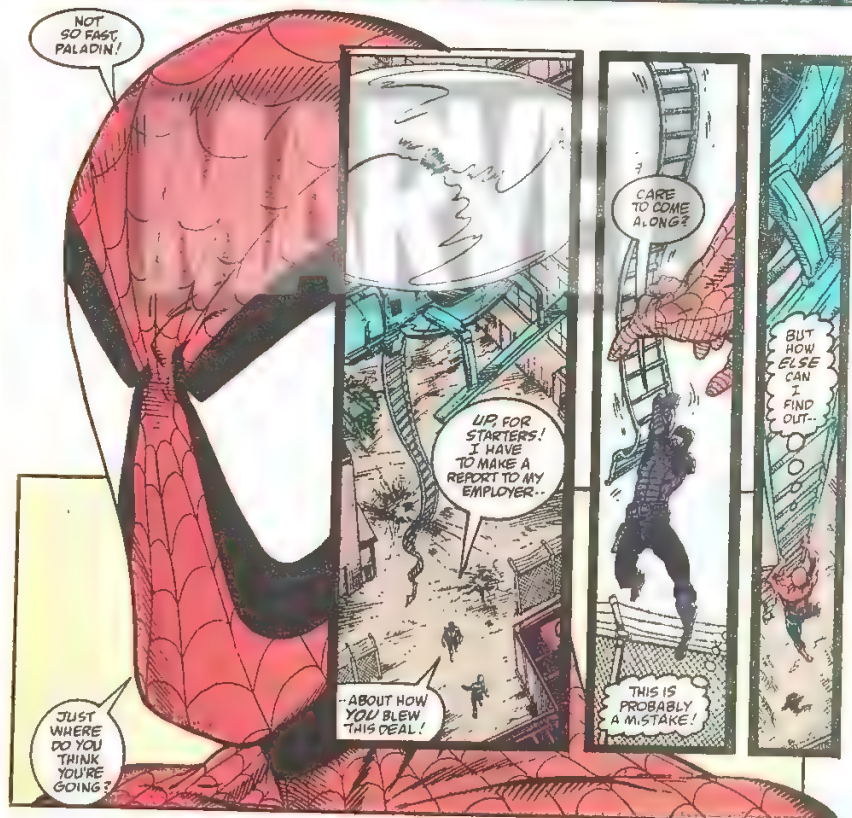
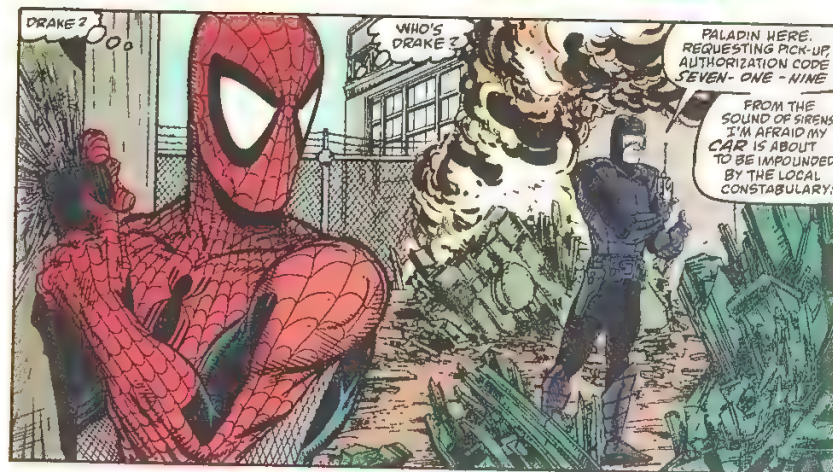
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25

Bulpen Bulletins

Stan's Soapbox

Hi, True Believers! The time hath come for a little soul-searching as we tackle a subject that concerns us all.

Years ago, some people looked down their noses at those who created or read comic books. Comics were thought of in the same light as we think of fast foods today. They were perceived as light entertainment with no real nourishment.

Even today, I occasionally hear someone give comics a bad rap, usually someone who hasn't read them in years. Well, in case you encounter the same type of comments, here's a little something you can run past your critic.

What are comics? They're stories, told in words and pictures. Are some not as well-written as others? Perhaps. There are also novels, plays and movies which aren't as well-written as others. But are some comic books written with great skill and integrity? Of course. Are some beautifully illustrated? Just take a look! Are they worthwhile? Bet on it! Since when has the written word coupled with illustration not been worthwhile?

Now, here's the clincher. Let's say Michaelangelo and Shakespeare are alive today and collaborate on a comic book. People would fight for a copy, right? Obviously, there's nothing wrong with taking a story using script and illustration. Just as with any other art form, everything depends on doing it well.

At Marvel, we try to do it well.
Excellent!

Stan

Pro File: Kelly P. Corvase



Assistant Editor on: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, THE 'NAM, THE JOB, and TRANSFORMERS
Marvel freelance credits (past): Editing the SPEEDBALL letters page (collect them all), typing numerous PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL scripts for Carl Potts.
Marvel freelance credits (present): Can I get back to you on this one?
My place of birth is: Providence, Rhode Island.
People who knew me in high school thought I was: My brother Jody.

Quote of the Month

"Just in time! I couldn't have taken another panel of this unrequited love bull!"

—Rumbo
POWER PACHYDERMS #1

ITEM: We Marvelites just can't sit still! Case in point: just last month in this space we told you about our brand-spanking-new Editorial Administration Pool members. Well, Mystical Marie Javins has gone and gotten promoted since then! Yup, the upwardly mobile Ms. J is now Marvelous Margaret Clark's assistant editor! Congrats, Marie!

Filling the void is Delightful Dawn Heermance, who will serve as secretary to Magnanimous Mark Gruenwald and Adventurous Archie Goodwin. Welcome, Dawn!

ITEM: And speaking of mobility, things have been kind of crazy—okay, *especially* crazy—here at Mighty Marvel the past few weeks. We've been playing that madcap corporate game known as "Musical Offices"! Ready to play, kids?

Margaret Clark moved to Carl Potts's office, who moved to Archie Goodwin's office, who

moved to Sid Jacobson's office, who moved to Don Perlin's office, found himself and his art-correcting Raiders way off in the southwest corner of the 10th floor, next to John Romita Sr., who switched offices with Bobbie Chase! Whew!

If you think that sounds confusing, True Believer, you're right! In fact, if we had a nickel for every time someone went to the wrong office around here, we could probably afford to send out our comics for free!

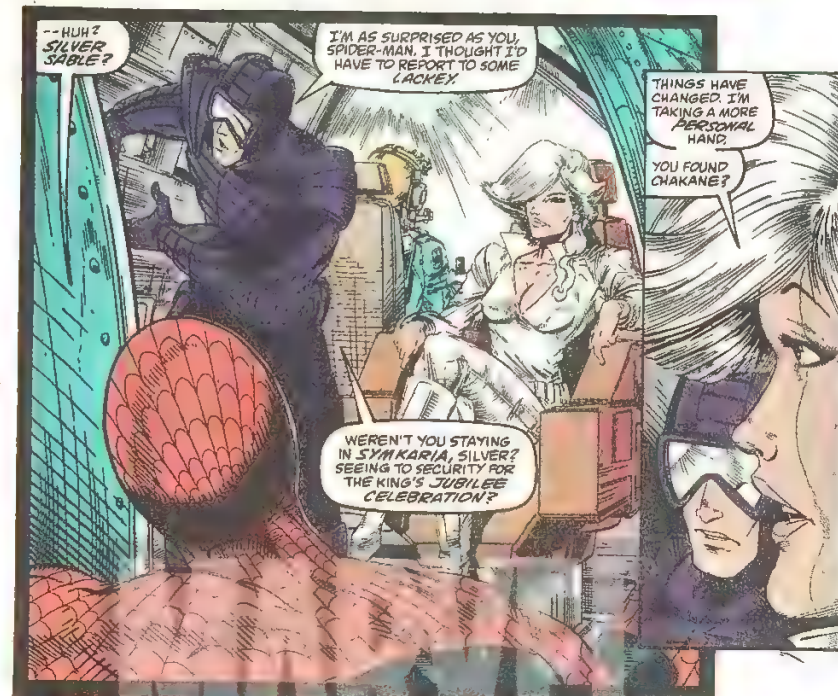
ITEM: The Marvel family got a little bigger recently, as MOON KNIGHT penciler Sal Velluto and his wife Sharon welcomed their first child into this big, brassy world; Alexander Mario Velluto was born March 28. Congratulations to the new parents, and a hearty hello to Alexander, the lucky little devil! After all, how many kids can say, "My dad works for Marvel Comics?"

My hobbies are: Working out (I bench press way more than bullpener Harry Candelario), jogging, playing with Domino my cat, reading all kinds of novels, and drawing all the time.
My pet peeves are: People with maids (I'll get one), compressed air cans when manned by Dwight Coyne, all the extra furniture that Don packs in our office, and Lynda Evans's hair.
My favorite performers are: Tom Hanks, Glenn Close, Bette Midler, "Jane" the Monitor, Tracy Ullman, the entire cast of *Lost in Space*, my brother Perry as the entire cast of *Lost in Space*, and of course Lindsay Wagner.
The last good books I read were: *I Was a Teenage Couch Potato* by Steven Scott Wilson, and *Do-It-Yourself Home Repairs* by John Steinmetz.
The last good movie I saw was: In a crowded theater, with a butter-soaked floor, and some guy behind me passed out. I think he was diabetic.
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Me! I've been studying the part for years.
My oddest habit is: *Days of Our Lives*, *General Hospital*, *Dynasty*...
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Graduating from the Swedish Institute and passing the New York state boards for a license in massage therapy.

The reason I got into comics was: Something about re-shaping the minds and ideas of our nation's youth to ensure future prosperity. (And I wanted to bump Jim DiGiovanna's Pro File off the Bulpen Bulletins page!)
The biggest influences on my work include: Klaus Janson, George Perez, Christopher Ivy, Tom DeFalco, Don Daley, and my dad.
The single work of which I am most proud is: My lovely wife Catherine and our two children, Anthony (2) and Elizabeth (1)...(Just seeing if you were paying attention.)

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Going to be fulfilled.
The worst part of my job is: Always missing lunch with Chris L., Chris A., and Mindy.
When nobody's looking I like to: Talk in sign language, but no one seems to hear me.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I've always believed you can have anything in life as long as you want it badly enough and work hard enough to get it.



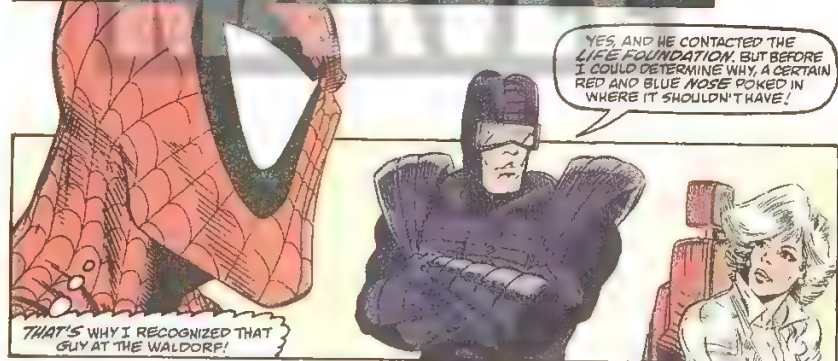
--HUH?
SILVER
SABLE?

I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU,
SPIDER-MAN. I THOUGHT I'D
HAVE TO REPORT TO SOME
LACKEY.

THINGS HAVE
CHANGED. I'M
TAKING A MORE
PERSONAL
HAND.

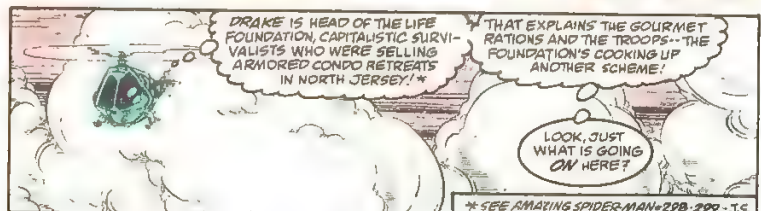
YOU FOUND
CHAKANE?

WEREN'T YOU STAYING
IN SYM KARIA, SILVER?
SEEING TO SECURITY FOR
THE KING'S JUBILEE
CELEBRATION?



YES, AND HE CONTACTED THE
LIFE FOUNDATION, BUT BEFORE
I COULD DETERMINE WHY, A CERTAIN
RED AND BLUE NOSE POKED IN
WHERE IT SHOULDN'T HAVE!

THAT'S WHY I RECOGNIZED THAT
GUY AT THE WALDORF!



DRAKE IS HEAD OF THE LIFE
FOUNDATION, CAPITALISTIC SURVI-
VALISTS WHO WERE SELLING
ARMORED CONDO RETREATS
IN NORTH JERSEY! *

THAT EXPLAINS THE GOURMET
RATIONS AND THE TROOPS--THE
FOUNDATION'S COOKING UP
ANOTHER SCHEME!

LOOK, JUST
WHAT IS GOING
ON HERE?

* SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #298-299-300.

THE NIGHT
PASSES
UNEASILY
FOR PETER
PARKER

A MORNING SHOWER
OFFERS LITTLE COMFORT.

I'LL LET MARY JANE
SLEEP. SHE'S STILL
POOPED AFTER THAT
PARTY.

I'LL JUST
QUIETLY
CHECK IN
WITH THE
EMBASSY.
MAYBE
SABLE
HAS...

--HUN?

--DIAGNOSIS
HAS BEEN
CONFIRMED.

THE HEART DISEASE
IS IN QUITE AN ADVANCED
STAGE. I'M SORRY, BUT I'M
AFRAID SIX MONTHS IS ALL
WE CAN HOPE FOR.

OH,
MY LORD!
AUNT MAY...
HAS
SIX MONTHS
TO LIVE?!

NEXT
ISSUE: **REVELATIONS!**

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
ARACHNERD
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Spider,

I was wondering why you call of 'Spidey a "non-mutant super hero." He was bitten by a radioactive spider. That would turn him into a mutant, wouldn't it? How about some guest appearances by mutants like Nightcrawler, Wolverine, or even Colossus? How about Spidey goes up against the Juggernaut? Is it possible?

John "Web-head" Webber
(No address on letter)

Anything's possible, John! Spidey's first encounter with the Juggernaut is re-presented in a deluxe edition, which should be on sale right now. As for a rematch, well, we're not sure if either of them is up to it. If you're looking for Spider-Man to team up with your favorite mutants, check out current issues of MARVEL TALES which is now reprinting Spidey's greatest mutant match-ups. Here's more on that "non-mutant" tag...

Dear Jim Salicrup,

I think that most people who read THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN realize that Spider-Man is not a mutant. I realize that Marvel has an abundant number of mutant super heroes, but why do you feel it's necessary. Spider-Man has been an extremely popular character for over 26 years. I'm sure that by now the public knows that Spider-Man is not a mutant.

Michael J. Leon
47 Jean Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550

Oh, really...?

Dear Spidey crew,

Before I got started, I'd like to say that I really enjoy reading Marvel's Spidey titles. They're great!

Now to the business at hand. On the covers of certain issues of Spidey's comics, these words appear: "The Non-Mutant Super Hero!" The current Marvel definition of the word "mutant" is "one who is born with an 'X-factor' in his/her genetic make-up, giving that person para-human abilities." I've been mulling this over and have come to the conclusion that this is only partially correct.

The word "mutant" can fit more than those born with a mutated cell that gives them para-human abilities. Webster defines "mutate" as "to change; to alter." Peter Parker's cells were altered when he was bitten by that spider, in effect, becoming a mutant. As did any Marvel character who gained powers that aren't a result of electronic devices (e.g. Mjolnir), or powers derived from magic (e.g. the Wrecking Crew).

Do you accept my proposal and explanation? All in all Marvel has the best comics around, and I'm proud to offer my ideas to your expertise. I hope I've clearly stated my point. So, until the Earth is sucked into a black hole, Make Mine Marvel!

Jaimie Wolz
Box 2876
APO, NY 09130

Sure, Jaimie, Spider-Man is a *mutate*. You won't get any argument from us there. But the biological definition of the term "mutant," even in our own universe, is "an organism born with a change in its chromosomes which is inherently different from either parent." The alteration in Peter's genetic structure was chemical in nature, not biological. That is, it occurred long after he was born.

Dear David,

Just when I thought that Marvel had cornered the market on mutants I picked up the 312th issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. You can get a trademark for "Non-Mutant"? I loved it! "THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, The Non-Mutant Super hero!" Not too many books that Marvel publishes that they can hang that title on.

With Halloween just around the corner the atmosphere was right for a confrontation between the Hobgoblin and the Green Goblin! I like the way in which you handled Harry becoming the Goblin to protect his family and then hanging it up once they were safe.

The Lizard next issue, all right! Bring back all of Spidey's best villains. I really love seeing how Todd draws all of those golden odds!

Of the three regular titles that Spider-Man has on the market this one is at the top of the list. Keep up the "amazing" work!

Charles S. Novinski
P.O. Box 1323
Grand Junction, CO 81502

That's one pro-"non-mutant" vote. Now let's hear from a man who feels that Spider-Man should at least rate the title "honorary mutant"...

Dear Editor-Man,

Shhh! Don't let it get out that Spider-Man is "the non-mutant super hero" (as leaked on the cover of ASM #312); your sales will surely drop! Incidentally, is that trademark on "mutant" or "non-mutant"? I suppose you probably don't have too much to worry about, though, crossing over with "Inferno" should make of Webhead an honorary mutant at any rate.

To Michelle and McFarlane: Keep spinning those fantastic webs--er, yarns!

Eric C. Miller
Ashton-Aydelotte #155
Bloomington, IN 47406

There's a controversy raging at the Marvel Bulpen right now that has to deal with this mutant issue. It was inspired by our trouble-making editor, Jim Salicrup, who insisted on placing that infamous phrase above the cover logo. We were surprised at how many people disagreed with the idea. Their argument is that any characters who received their powers due to radiation (e.g. Spidey, Daredevil, the Hulk, or the Fantastic Four) are mutants due to the fact that they did not die. The Marvel Dictionary coins the phrase "latent mutant" to describe such a phenomenon. For instance, it has been established that Cloak and Dagger were latent mutants whose powers never would have manifested without the catalyst of certain drugs. So what does that make Spidey? We'd like to hear what you have to say about the matter. In the meantime, to keep our definitions from being all-inclusive, we're calling our webslinger a "non-mutant."

NEXT ISSUE: The "Assassin Nation Plot" continues as Spidey teams up with Paladin and Silver Sable to track down the escaped members of the Life Foundation. Remember, it's on sale in two weeks! Meanwhile, check out SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #154 next week to discover the master plan of the Puma!

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